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language. The author so expresses himself that it is generally difficult to mistake his meaning, though an ambiguous sentence is occasionally found. The book abounds in striking antitheses and sententious expressions. The style reveals the forceful speaker rather than the teacher or writer. There is a certain ease of treatment which at first glance suggests superficiality, but closer observation discovers that it is rather due to the fact that Dr. Kirtley has carefully studied his material and knows just what he desires to say. His scholarship is good; his spirit is quite above criticism.

Three counts do not impress the present reviewer favorably. Dr. Kirtley occasionally extracts from the gospels statements which they certainly do not contain. In certain matters of chronology and antiquities he seems to have ignored some of the best recent work. A mechanical conception of God's plan for Jesus' life which occasionally obtrudes itself leads to some gratuitous and unconvincing assertions. Yet, in spite of these strictures, the book will prove an easy and helpful guide to the class for whom it was written, and is to be commended both for spirit and content. It certainly is deserving of a better map. The present insertion cheapens the book and discredits the society that publishes it.

J. W. BAILEY

FAIRBURY, ILL.

The Book of Job in the Revised Version. Edited, with Introductions and Brief Annotations, by S. R. DRIVER, D.D., Litt.D., Regius Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1906. Pp. xxxvi+33. \$0.85.

The Book of Job. By REV. JAMES AITKEN, M.A., Minister of Onslow Presbyterian Church, Wellington, New Zealand. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1906. Pp. 114. \$0.45.

The purpose of Canon Driver's work is to make the Book of Job intelligible to an ordinary educated reader. This object has been most successfully accomplished. The text of the Revised Version has been divided throughout into paragraphs, with the argument of the poem prefixed to each. And thus the course of thought of the Book of Job, which to many, as they read it in an ordinary Bible, is obscure and almost unintelligible, becomes clear and apparent.

Brief notes also are given on each word or passage which seemed not perfectly plain. Special attention has been paid to the marginal readings of the Revised Version, and the fact is emphasized that these are equally a part of the Revision with the changes incorporated into the text. Of the alternative readings as far as possible it has been indicated which are to be preferred. In a limited number of cases also renderings beyond those

given in the Revised Version have been mentioned, if they appear to be probable or to improve the sense; but the reader is spared the confusion of a multitude of conjectures.

The text explained is not the original Hebrew, but the Revised Version; hence a glossary is given of the obsolete or unfamiliar words of that version, and this edition of the Book of Job resembles in a large degree student editions of the plays of Shakespeare or other English classics, and might have a place equally with them in the study of English literature as well as of biblical.

In regard to the date and integrity of the poem, Canon Driver is in line with the great majority of scholars who place it not far from the exile—most probably within the century which began with the return from Babylon in 538 B. C.

He finds also difficulty in regarding the panegyric on Wisdom (chap. 28) and the speeches of Elihu (chaps. 32-37) parts of the original poem, and also calls attention to the difficulty of considering 17:7-10, 13-23, an utterance of Job, and thinks it would have been perfectly suitable in Zophar's mouth. The difficulty, however, of the consistency of the prologue and epilogue with the remainder of the book is passed over, and no mention is made of the relief given by the theory that these may have been the survivals of an older Book of Job in which Job had been uncomplaining and his friends had questioned the rectitude of the government of God. This theory as a solution of the riddle of the uncomplaining man of 2:10 uttering his bitter protests against God's treatment of him, and of the statement that the three friends "had not spoken the thing that is right as my servant Job hath" (42:7), is worthy of a place in such an edition of the Book of Job, even if not approved by the editor.

The Book of Job by Rev. James Aiken is a handbook for Bible classes, with exactly the same purpose as the volume of Canon Driver, and is written from the same critical point of view. It has a good introduction, provides the poem equally with an analysis and argument, and has similar brief explanatory notes with marginal and new renderings. The text of the Revised Version, however, is not given; but the *student* who uses this volume is recommended to note, if possible, in his own Bible the corrections made in the text, and particularly to mark the divisions into paragraphs. And it is said: "If he were to take the trouble to write out the whole text embodying those corrections and divisions, and setting the summaries as marginalia down the side, he would find himself amply rewarded."

E. L. CURTIS

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